

Project Topics to Consider/Project Topics to Avoid 05.25.05

One of the cool things about the Senior Project is that you decide the topic of your research.

Some of you will know exactly what topic to pursue. Other students will have problems deciding on a topic because 1) they have so many possibilities in their heads that they cannot decide or 2) they have never thought about what really interests them.

Whatever your situation, talk with others about what you are thinking. These discussions could lead to areas you might not have otherwise considered.

The following are some questions for you to consider that might very well help you discover your topic:

- Within the next five years, what do you hope to have accomplished?
- What things would you like to do better?
- What would you like to learn more about?
- What experiences would you like to have?

- What controversial issues do you feel strongly about?
- What are your passions?
- What are your hobbies?
- What profession do you admire?
- What classes have you taken that you really liked?

Potential Topics

- Aeronautics
- Agriculture
- Animal Science
- Anthropology
- Archaeology
- Architecture
- Arts/Crafts
- Astronomy
- Biology
- Botany
- Business
- Climatology
- Communication
- Controversial Issues
- Culinary Arts
- Drama
- Economics
- Education
- Electronics
- Energy
- Engineering
- Entertainment
- Environment
- English
- Fashion
- Film
- Finance

- Genetics
- Geography
- Geology
- Government
- Graphic Arts
- Health
- History
- Industrial Arts
- Insurance
- Journalism
- Languages
- Law
- Manufacturing
- Marketing
- Mathematics
- Mechanical
- Medical
- Military
- Music
- Natural Resources
- Nutrition
- Oceanography
- Performing Arts
- Photography
- Physics
- Psychology
- Radio
- Social Services
- Sociology
- Sports
- Technology
- Television
- Tourism
- Transportation
- Visual Arts
- Others----

Projects that will tend to be immediately unacceptable include the following:

1. The specific topic (thesis statement) you choose must not be a rehash of a 4-H project, Science Fair project, Eagle Scout project, or ANY PROJECT WHICH YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY OR ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON. You may choose to work in the same subject area from a different angle.
 - This is not to say that you have to stray from something you love. For example, let's say you have been in 4-H for 10 years in the specific area of show horses. You obviously know much about show horses and thus would not be allowed to complete a Senior Project on the kind of horse that you feel is the best breed to show.
 - The question is....In what areas do you lack significant information about horses? —Breeding? Nutrition? Training techniques? Changes to be made in the way horse shows are scored?

1. Body Piercing
2. Tattoos
3. Satan/Devil/Black Magic/Witchcraft
4. Speaker Boxes
5. Planning a Wedding
6. How to papers....
7. Papers that are purely informational
8. Trite topics
9. Any topic for which you have no real passion

The previous topics made the list for a variety of reasons. Some of the topics would not reflect the community standards of Kendallville, others have shown a propensity to be weak projects, and some were discouraged by people who have been doing a Senior Project since its inception 16 years ago.

If you feel strongly about a topic and have the topic of the Letter of Intent denied, you may appeal to the Advisory Board as a whole (See Appeals Process “The Advisory Board”).

THE STRETCH

The research **MUST BE A STRETCH** for you. Who is responsible to make certain that what you are doing is a stretch? Ultimately you are. You know what your knowledge base is regarding your topic. Other groups that will take responsibility to make certain that your thesis choice is a stretch include the following: former teachers, counselors, parents, employers, community members, fellow students, 4-H judges, etc. So make certain that you are honest with yourself and with the Advisory Board. This will save you a potential headache if your thesis is denied on the basis that it is not a stretch.

Advisory Board Letter

It is up to you and your letter to the Advisory Board to let them know under no uncertain terms that what you are choosing to pursue is indeed a stretch. Do not assume that the board knows you. Do not assume that they will read between the lines of your letter to understand your meaning. Be very specific about what you want to pursue and **HOW IT INDEED IS A STRETCH**.